Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* They are idea planters. What I wanted is whether people who plant cocoanuts, arecanuts, etc., also will be entitled to be called planters, or whether those who plant rubber, tea, etc., alone would constitute planters?

Mr. President: That does not arise here. It is all electoral reform which does not arise here.

KOOVAPADAM RECLAMATION SCHEMES AND CANALS IN MATTANCHERI

343. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the date on which they first received the suggestion to reclaim or improve the area known as Koovapadam in Mattancheri from the Mattancheri Municipality.

(*b*) the date on which the Municipality asked for the services of a Revenue Inspector to make a valuation statement of the area to be reclaimed;

(*c*) the date on which the Revenue Inspector was actually deputed for making valuation statements for the Koovapadam area;

(*d*) the date on which the Revenue Inspector actually made the report containing the valuation statements;

(*e*) the reasons for the delay, if any, in submitting the report regarding the valuation by the Revenue Inspector;

(*f*) the total area for reclamation in the Koovapadam area;

(*g*) whether anyone from the Engineering Department has been deputed to make an estimate of the probable cost of reclaiming and levelling the area;

(*h*) if so, the total estimate of costs for reclaiming the area;

(*i*) if the full scheme of reclamation and improvement of the Koovapadam area has been received by Government as conceived by the Municipality, will Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a note on the pith and substance of the scheme?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) 11th January 1939.

(*b*) 10th August 1939.

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(*c*) 6th February 1940.

(*d*) The Special Revenue Inspector submitted to the Municipality the valuation statement in respect of Mattancheri village on 19th August 1940 and that in respect of Rameswaram village on 6th September 1940.

(*e*) The Special Revenue Inspector could not finish the work within the period of his deputation, and he had to finish the preparation of the valuation statements and sub-division sketches afterwards amidst his own work in the Revenue Department.

(*f*) 90 acres and 4 19/40 cents.

(*g*) Yes, an Overseer.

(*h*) Rs. 3,68,000 inclusive of the cost of land acquisition and of a granite masonry drain along the whole area.

(*i*) Copy of the scheme as conceived by the Municipality is placed on the Council Table.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May we know at what stage is the scheme now?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I submitted to this House yesterday that it is now pending the consideration of the Chief Engineer. We have forwarded the scheme for his expert opinion.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* To scrutinise the estimate?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes. Everything has been forwarded to the Chief Engineer and he is scrutinising the same.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* How long will it take to bring the scheme into operation?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I cannot say how long it will take. It is an important scheme.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I ask whether any time-limit has been fixed within which the Chief Engineer is to resubmit the scheme after scrutiny.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No. No time-limit has been fixed.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* May I know, Sir, how many houses will have to be evicted from there if the scheme is brought into operation?

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Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* In fact, we have got a complaint petition saying that very many houses will have to be evicted.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are the Government aware that the Municipality of Mattancheri has passed a resolution to provide those people with necessary sites?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes. The proposal is there. When the scheme materialises, these people may get necessary sites on easy terms. A number of acres is to be set apart for that specific purpose.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* What is the nature of the provision made for the occupation of the people? Have lands been alloted anywhere?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The proposal is that these people should be able to get lands there itself after they are reclaimed and made fit for occupation.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* Will they have to pay anything for this?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* They will be given sites on easy terms. That is the proposal made to the Government. The Government have not come to any conclusion. The scheme is pending consideration.

AYYANTHOLE PANCHAYAT—REPRESENTATION REGARDING NOMINATIONS

344. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):*

(*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether they had received any resolution of a meeting of the Ezhuvas of Lalur, Aranattukara and other places requesting to nominate a member from that community to the Ayyanthole Panchayat;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the resolution was returned by Government to the sender, the same being unstamped?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) & (*b*) As the original papers said to have been returned to be stamped are not with Government, it is not possible to furnish a definite answer.

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